**Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting**

 **Monday, August 4, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 7:00 PM. Roll call of committee members verified that a quorum was present. We met at the Barnes Town Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

**1. Roll call:**

**Members Present:** Sally Pease, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Mavis Gagne, Bill Sande (Zoom), Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes).

**Guests Present:** David Blumer (LEAPS LLC) - on Zoom.

**Members Absent:** Barb Clements, Julia Lyons and Doug Stearly.

**Verification of Public Notice**: Public notice of meeting was posted on August 3, 2025 at 6:50 PM by Chris Webb, AIS Committee Chair.

**2. Approval of Agenda**: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Diane to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

**3. Approval of last month’s minutes**: A motion was made by Chris Webb and seconded by Sally to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on July 14, 2025. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

**4. DASH-BAISS Project Lead - Cris Neff:**

 **a. Middle Eau Claire Lake Report:**

Work began on July 7th and was scheduled for a 2 week period. However, 2½ days were missed due to mechanical problems with the failure of the boat’s air compressor. Parts were ordered and repairs were made. At this time, the air filter on the vacuum/water pump was replaced along with spark plugs. Because of losing 2½ days (also a half day due to weather), an additional day was scheduled for Monday, July 21st. On Middle EC, the team pulled curly-leaf pondweed in beds near “Hole in the Wall Bay,” then south of the popular recreational sand bar, and a large bed in the lake’s NE corner. In all locations, the CLP was in an advanced stage of weakening structure, releasing turions, with CLP roots buried beneath the native plant’s roots, and often too weakened to remove. Work was cumbersome and time consuming. On the afternoon of July 21st, the boat was taken out, cleaned, and moved to Sand Bar Lake. On Sand Bar Lake, the divers began pulling Eurasian milfoil on July 22nd.

Cris Neff’s recommendation for 2026 on Middle EC Lake is to schedule 3 weeks on this lake with an earlier time frame where the plants will still be in a more viable stage.

**5. Andy Teal, Bayfield County LMPN Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Technician:**

Andy was absent from our meeting, so there was no report.

**6. Dave Blumer, LEAPS LLC:**

Dave has not been out to Tomahawk Lake since the chemical treatment in June. Mavis Gagne reported that the water quality tests have been in the “very high quality” range with Secchi readings in the 16 foot range (very clear). The results of the chemical testing have not come back yet. Matt Berg is planning to do lake mapping in September. The GPS mapping points on our mobile device have been very effective for locating patches quickly. On Sand Bar Lake, the BAISS boat is on its 3rd week of 4 weeks planned there. They are working on a patch to the right of the channel inlet, then will focus on other patches surrounding the lake. Tomahawk will be the last lake on this year’s schedule – a 2 week time period to end the summer on August 28th.

An idea was discussed to hire youth to help with CLP pulling in Sand Bar Lake along the shoreline in between and around the dead tree stumps. These paid employees (probably two) could be high school or college age. They could possibly be used for filling in open shifts on the BAISS boat too or at the boat landings working with the CBCW program as needed. More discussion to follow.

**7. CBCW Project:**

No updates that this time. The data is still being entered into the SWIMS database website.

The Fall Musky Tournament in scheduled for October 3-5th. We will have boat landing monitors at the three Eau Claire Lake landings.

**8. Sub-committee report on meeting with NWRPC, Megan Sorenson:**

A meeting was held on Friday, August 1st with Chris Webb, Cris Neff, Bill Sande, and Megan Sorenson. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss items to be written into our grants coming up on September 15th (pre-grant) and November 15th (deadline for final paperwork). They discussed our grant needs: \*Shunenberg (Headwaters): no grant needed, just one day to check for stray CLP, no permit needed, no expenses.

\*Upper EC Lake and Middle EC Lakes: a grant needed for the work pulling CLP with the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat.

\*Upper EC Lake: a grant for chemical treatment of the large patch of CLP behind the island with the use of the limno curtain stretching across from the island to the shore on one end.

\*Lower EC Lake: a grant needed for the DASH boat to pull CLP.

We would be applying for three grants.

Megan would also be working on the Aquatic Plant Management (APM) for the rest of the EC chain of lakes, so all lakes would be included in our APMs. These lakes would include Bony, Birch, Robinson, and George. The APM would include similar items as our main APM has in it, like data on lake characteristics, water quality, fisheries and wildlife, aquatic plant surveys, and our aquatic plant management goals.

They also discussed our dilemma about CLP. The life cycle of this invasive plant begins its yearly growth early in the spring, even under the ice. Then by late June or early July, the plants start to weaken and start breaking apart while releasing their turions. The three Eau Claire Lakes all have this invasive plant and they all need the BAISS boat’s attention early in the season during a 6 week period from the Middle of May to early July. The BAISS boat can’t get to all three lakes during that short time span. Some ideas discussed:

1. Hire an outside company to help out. Aquatic Plant Management Company has similar DASH boats that could perhaps work on Moody Bay in Lower EC Lake while our DASH boat works Middle and Upper EC Lakes. However, the cost is $2600 to $4000 per day. They could probably do a good job in a 2 to 3 week period, but it would be very costly. However, we may get a quote.

2. Build another DASH boat like the one we have using local volunteers. Again, some expense is involved and lots of time and labor.

3. Search for a used DASH boat that could be purchased, again at an unknown cost.

More discussion on this topic will be in the future.

**9. Financial Report:**

New date was not available at this time. However, our main expenses continue to be the wage payments to the divers and the boat landing monitors. There were also maintenance costs to make repairs on the BAISS boat.

**10. Volunteer and Employee Appreciation Picnic - Monday, September 1st from 4:00-7:00 PM:**

 **a. AIS Committee Delegation:**

The picnic is held at the Town Park under the pavilion. Hots dog, hamburgers, and brats will be cooked on the grill. Beverages will be offered. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass. Activities are planned, such as games and a 50/50 raffle. Complimentary T-shirts will be displayed and an online store will be on-site for selecting appropriate sizes. Fun for all!

**11. Next meeting Date** for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, September 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Eric and seconded by Diane to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard

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